



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/418,119	10/14/1999	ANGSHUMAN SAHA	239604	8445
24739	7590	11/12/2008	EXAMINER	
CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY, INC 3 HANGAR WAY SUITE D WATSONVILLE, CA 95076			VO, DON NGUYEN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
		2611		
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
11/12/2008	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/418,119	Applicant(s) SAHA ET AL.
	Examiner Don N. Vo	Art Unit 2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-22 and 31-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-22 and 31-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/20/2008 has been entered.

Claim status

2. Claims 1-16, 23-30 and 37-41 were cancelled. Claims 17-22 and 31-36 are pending.

3. The indicated allowability of claims 17-22 and 31-36 in the Office Action mailed 05/19/2008 is now withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Malerevich et al (US 6,611,538). The delay in discovering the new reference is regretted. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 17-19, 21, 31, 33, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Malerevich et al (US 6,611,538).

Regarding claims 17, 18 and 31, Malerevich, as shown in figures 2-10, teaches apparatus and method for word synchronization between plurality of word devices (Fig. 4A-4C, A and B) in which the first device or second device requests synchronization between the two devices and data is being communicated upon synchronization between the two devices has been established. See also column 3, line 46 to column 5, line 49.

Regarding claim 19, Malerevich further teaches becoming unsynchronized in response receiving loss-of-synch signal. See column 7, line 46 to column 9, line 2.

Regarding claim 21, Malerevich further teaches resynchronizing after receiving bad control word. See column 7, line 46 to column 9, line 2.

Regarding claims 33 and 36, Malerevich further teaches entering loss-of-synch state after receiving numbers of bad control word. See column 7, line 46 to column 9, line 2.

Regarding claim 34, Malerevich further teaches SERDES. See column 1, lines 21-52 and column 6, lines 1-9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 20, 22, 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malerevich et al (US 6,611,538).

Regarding claims 20 and 22, Malerevich teaches all subject matter claimed except for the loss-of-synch signal is being generated by the deserializer. See section 5 above. Instead, the loss-of-synch signal is being generated by the sync state machine (fig. 8, 106). However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Malerevich by shifting the function of generating the loss-

of-synch signal to the deserializer since it is just a matter of reassigning the function to a different element within the device.

Regarding claims 32 and 35, Malerevich teaches all subject matter claimed except for the threshold number of bad control words is one. See section 5 above. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Malerevich by entering unsynchronized state when only one bad control word is received since it is just a matter of setting the sensitivity of the device in response to the numbers of bad control word and such modification would not involve any inventive feature.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reference Perin et al (US 6,275,474) is cited because it is pertinent to the method for synchronization between a plurality of devices.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don N. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3018. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (9:00AM - 6:00PM).
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MOHAMMAD GHAYOUR can be reached on (571) 272-3021. The fax

Art Unit: 2611

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is
571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Don N. Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2611